



State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition

March 22, 2013

Co-Chairs Senator Harp and Representative Walker and all the distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on the Governor's HB 6354: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT. My name is Paul Filson and I am Director of the Service Employees International Union Connecticut State Council. SEIU represents over 65,000 members in Connecticut over 20,000 of our members work for the State of Connecticut. Today I am testifying on behalf of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition, SEBAC.

HB 6354 proposes changes that the Executive Branch believes will streamline state government and save money for the tax payers of Connecticut. Specifically beginning at Sec. 162 there are proposed changes in personnel rules. The member unions of SEBAC are in agreement that the personnel rules should be changed and changes can save money, improve efficiency, and improve work lives and career opportunities. In fact, during discussions with the administration in 2011 leading up to the current SEBAC agreement we proposed changes. However, it was agreed due to time limitations that such changes should be more fully discussed in the future.

SEBAC has some strong concerns about many of the specific personnel rules changes proposed in HB 6354 and we strongly believe that SEBAC and the administration should work together to reach common ground. We have agreed to sit down with the administration, and in the spirit of transformation, work to bring to the General Assembly a set of consensus changes in time for them to be included in this bill and to be voted on this session.

While SEBAC opposes the personnel rule changes in HB 6354 as written, we hope to bring you a consensus version soon that the unions and the administration both support. Thank you.